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**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel Claims 59-66. Please amend Claims 25, 30 and 31. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

- 1-24. (Canceled)
25. (Currently amended) An isolated neurotrophic peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of peptide C14 (SEQ ID NO:14); ~~or consisting of an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% similar to SEQ ID NO:14; wherein amino acid sequence similarity is determined using the BLAST 2 sequences algorithm with default parameters (FEMS Microbiol Lett. 174:187-188 (1999)).~~
26. (Canceled)
27. (Previously presented) A composition, comprising the isolated neurotrophic peptide of Claim 25 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.
28. (Original) The composition of Claim 27, further comprising a mammalian neurotrophic factor.
29. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 28, wherein said mammalian neurotrophic factor is ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) or leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF).
30. (Currently amended) A fusion protein comprising a first moiety and a fusion partner moiety, wherein said first moiety consists consisting of the amino acid sequence of peptide C14 (SEQ ID NO:14) and said [[a]] fusion partner moiety consists of an oligopeptide or polypeptide not occurring in *T. cruzi* trans-sialidase (SEQ ID NO:34) as found in nature; ~~or consisting of an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% similar to SEQ ID NO:14 and a fusion partner, wherein amino acid sequence similarity is~~

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~~determined using the BLAST 2 sequences algorithm with default parameters (FEMS  
Microbiol Lett. 174:187-188 (1999)).~~

31. (Currently amended) The fusion protein of Claim 30, wherein said fusion partner moiety is a mammalian neurotrophic factor.
32. (Previously presented) The fusion protein of Claim 31, wherein said neurotrophic factor is ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) or leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF).
33. (Original) A composition, comprising the fusion protein of Claim 30 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.
- 34-66. (Canceled)